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Ref: (a) ALUSNA Helsinki Report 7-55 of 15 Jan 1955

1. CHANGE IN PRECEDENCE ACCORDED SOVIET ATTACHE. During the period 10-13 March, 1955, the Finnish Defense Forces held their annual winter games at Hameenlinna. On Sunday, 13 March, General Heiskanen, Commanding General of Defense Forces, gave a luncheon attended by all high ranking officers of the Defense Forces, and foreign attaches. The senior attache, Lieutenant Colonel Wennberg, Sweden, did not attend due to illness; Colonel Cochran, U. S. Military Attache, therefore acted as Senior attache in accordance with the rules promulgated by the Finnish Foreign Section and reported in reference (a). By their regulations, seniority of attaches is determined entirely by date of presenting credentials, without regard to rank. Colonel Cochran occupied the seat on General Heiskanen's right, as honor guest. Wing Commander Daytrikh, British Air Attache should, in accordance with the rules of precedence, have been seated on General Heiskanen's left, but was in fact seated at a lower table. Major General Vinogradov, new Soviet Military

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INFORMATION REPORT

OPNAV FORM 8820-2(G) (6-58)

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CONFIDENTIAL	US Naval Attache Helsinki	37-55	14 March 1955

Attache, was seated on General Heiskanen's left. A query by one of the U. S. attaches to the Head of the Foreign Section after the luncheon as to whether the rules of precedence had been changed elicited the reply that they definitely had, by someone higher than the Foreign Section chief, but that the regulations would remain on the books without change.

2. ADDRESS BY SOVIET MILITARY ATTACHE. General Heiskanen delivered a welcoming speech to the assembly in Finnish, English and Russian. Colonel Cochran, as the senior attache delivered a return speech on behalf of all attaches accredited in Helsinki, speaking in English and Finnish. A few moments later, General Vinogradov jumped to his feet apparently unexpectedly as far as the Finns were concerned, and delivered a speech in Russian, translated to Finnish only by one of his Finnish-English speaking assistants. It is considered quite likely that Vinogradov may have stated to General Heiskanen just before rising that he wished to say a few words. His speech consisted of some typical phrases stressing the great friendship the Russians feel for the Finns, the Russians admiration for Finnish skiers, and his hope for undying friendship between the two countries, etc. His speech was unusual in four ways: first, by long standing protocol only the senior attache speaks; second, March 13th was the 15th anniversary of the Winter War Armistice and the surrender of Karelia to the USSR, which placed the Finns in a completely unreceptive mood; third, General Vinogradov ended with the usual toast, and as this speech was rendered between courses of the luncheon, he had the only glass which he had been clutching for some time; all Finns were thus able to raise empty glasses to the toast, with varied and suitable glances to each other. Fourth, the General's speech followed the recent sound trouncing of Soviet teams in international ski competitions by the Finns, giving the Finns adequate grounds for comment.

INFORMATION REPORT

FORM 8050-2 (C) (6-55)

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Preparing and Forwarding Officer's Comment:

The change in protocol, while not unexpected, emphasizes the continued pressure placed on the Finns by the Russians. The Finns can at least take some pleasure, however, in the fact that the Soviet military attache's speech produced entirely the opposite effect from the one he intended. It will certainly not endear him to the Finnish Army.

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Commander, USN.